

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please make the following amendments to the Specification, on page 1 lines 7-17:

This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/540,935, filed March 31, 2000, entitled "Systems and Methods for Collecting Plasma That is Free of Cellular Blood Species," which application is presently allowed. This application also claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/252,870, filed November 22, 2000 which has expired, and entitled "Systems and Methods for ~~Collecting~~ Collecting Leukocyte-Reduced Blood Components- Including Plasma That is Free or Virtually Free of Cellular Blood Species."

Please make the following amendments to the Specification, on page 30 lines 1-15:

Desirably, the filter 16 includes a filtration medium contained within a flexible housing 130 (see Fig. 4514) made using conventional approved medical grade plastic materials using conventional radio frequency heat sealing technology. The filter 16, being flexible, facilitates handling and reduces the incidence of damage to other components of the system during centrifugal processing. The flexible filter 16 avoids the handling and processing problems rigid filter housings have presented in the past. Unlike a rigid housing, the flexible housing 130 will not puncture associated containers, which are also made of flexible plastic materials. Unlike a rigid housing, the flexible housing 130 conforms and is compliant to stress and pressures induced during use.